

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR MEN PLANNING THEIR FUTURE







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CITCHY WITCH TURN HIS HEAD,



LOLLIPOP ASTRONAUT

Mr. Poppecker looked up from his newspaper with a gasp, "This space expedition to the Planet Fink", he gasped, "You know who's been appointed to head it? General Merton Boop, my uncle's friend, that's whol That gives me the chance I've been waiting for, mom. Herbie, that Little Fat Nothing of ours-he could be something if he got to go along on an expedition like that, Why, he'd see history being made! And General Merton Boop wouldn't refuse me-I'm sure of it," The General didn't refuse, "Har-rumph!" be said. "Might be able to use a boy at that. Hope he appreciates the honor, by George, Har-rumph!" And he proceeded with his work of organizing the expedition, Under him came three dignifled colonels, four self-important lieutenant-colonels and five atiffnecked majors. And under all of them came-Hethie, "Har-rumpht" said the Genetal. "Don't you dare suck that Iollipop in my presence!" The colonels elated at Herbie and told him to pull his stomach in, which would have required a magician. The lieutenant-colonels ordered him always 'to stand in their presence. As for the majors, they growled whenever they saw him and set him to work at any and every job they could think of,

Dal and mon took a tearful leave of literhip tack before harvoff. "There isn't anochyou!" It is able to do on a rulp like this," by a liter harvoff to the control of the confound out something disturbing. General, colours, increasance-closels, support. They read to the colours of the colours of the colours, and read to the colours of the colours of the colours. For the food-literhie. Wash the disbes, clean the ship-literhie. Wash the disbes, the forethought to lay in an ample stock of lollipops. So there wasn't much for him to do on a trip like this, hnh? What with the commands from every officer, he found that he was working a 24-hour day. It was exhausting-so much so that he sained twelve pounds. One thing he could be thankful forit was a peaceful, uneventful trip as they darted through space towards the Planet Fink. Peaceful and uneventful, that is, notil the day when they sighted a huge comet plunging straight for them. And no matter how much the rocket changed course, there was no shaking off the crim nursuer, which closed in relentlessly. There was only one way in which it could end-collision and exrinction for everyone aboard. So the general. the colonels, the lieutenant-colonels and the majors gathered in a group and howled. "Get no place that way", thought Herbie. So he opened an excape batch and walked out of the rocket. Through space he trudged, right up to the comet, which headed for him fiercely. "Out of my way, Popnecker!" it growled, but you don't mean around with Herbie. There was only one thing to do, and that was to hop it with his follings, He never wasted words when it came to lollipop-hopping, and the couet hlew to pieces with a mighty roar. Back to the rocket plodded Hethie. He entered to find that he hadn't even been missed. General, colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors were arguing about who should get the credit for destroying the comet-and they were still arouing when the fuel ran out, "Never set to Planet Fink this way," Herbie muttered to himself. Once again be beaded out through an escape batch, out behind the rocket and started oushing, It got to be a little tiring after the first few million miles, particularly when the time came to land the hig craft on the target planet. He had to grah it by the nose









the high muck-a-mucks aboard poured out, debaring as to just who among them should ger the credit for the successful landing. "Got 'em here," thought Herhie.. "Can re-

lax now."

Wrong, A Poppecker can never relax, Towards them, over the surface of the Planet Fink, crawled the grand-daddy of all serpents. It was roughly five miles long. weighed a trifle under a million tons ringside and craved an appetizer made up of a general, colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors. Howling in fear, they headed back into the rocket on the run, leaving Herhie to face the oncoming menace, "Back!" said Herhie, "Your fodder's moustache", hissed the huge reptile. "Hold my lollipop", said Herhie. And when the top brass at length ventured timidly nut of their hideout, there was that king-sized serpent neatly tied un in the best Boy Scout knots that Herbie Popnecker could remember. "Abem!" said the General, "Obviously it must have sighted the stars on my shoulders and was so frightened that it tied itself in knots!" The colonels thought it was their eagles that were responsible, while the lieutenantcolumnels and majors were inclined to ascribe the credit to their oak leaves. But they didn't have too much time to argue about it, It happened while Herhie was out gathering food for the expedition-a large group of two-headed Spacemen attacked and captured every last officer. Herbie saw it happen from a distance and drew a despairing breath. Really, this was almost too much-was he never to get a chance to relax? But "Americana", said Herbie, "Gotta save 'em''.

So right into the King's palace he strode. "Got some of my people here," he said. "Let 'em go."

"Inst hecause you're Herhie Popnecker?" saked the King scornfully, speaking through his left head. "Like he says", barked his right head. "What can you do. "Bon you with this here follipop," said

Herbie menacingly. Both heads turned white and before you knew it, every one of the officers was released and presented with an apology and his weight in-gold. And each of them had his own opinion as to who should receive the credit for it all. "Better get 'em back to Earth before they start fighting shout it's, thought Herhie, Before he could do this, however, he had to get the rocket fuel for the return trip. There just wasn't any on the Planet Fink, so Herbie ended up making it himself. He had to mix a batch of cough syrup, raw onlines, hen's reeth, after-shaving lotion and nuwdered chowder, but the resultant solution lacked comph. Stirring it with a special High Octane Lollipop finally did the job, The rocket blasted off with the roar of a thousand earthquakes and back through space it darted

You can just shout imagine the furore when the expedition returned to Earth. There were parades, banquers, wild celehrations. Congress voted medals to the General, the colonels, the lieutenantcolonels and the majors, Matter of fact, the only one who didn't get a medal was Herhie, because after all, what had be done? His father was so ashamed that he couldn't look anyone in the face; "I must have been crazy to ever hope that be'd do anything!" he muttered.

As for Herbie, he was frankly and fatly

tired. And why not, when he hadn't had time ro sleep for a single second during the eight months the expedition had lasted? He had eyes for only one thing when he returned home-a new hammock that had been slung hetween the house and the hig oak tree that stood alongslde it. He collapsed into ir and a majestic snore rent the air. ascending towards the Outer Space from which he had so recently returned. Shuddering, Mr. Popnecker clapped his

hands over his suffering ears and turned away his suffering eyes. "Why don't I give up trying?" he asked. "I might as well resign myself. He's a Little Fat Nothing-and

that's all he'll ever be!"











































